

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-51. (Cancelled).

52. (New) A wound retractor device, comprising:

a longitudinal axis;

a distal ring;

a proximal ring assembly including an inner ring and an outer ring; and

a sleeve extending at least between the distal ring and the proximal ring assembly, the sleeve being slidably received about a portion of the proximal ring assembly.

53. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the sleeve is a generally cylindrical sleeve.

54. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the sleeve is located between the inner ring and outer ring.

55. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, further including a securing portion configured to fix the sleeve at a desired axial length between the distal ring and the proximal ring assembly.

56. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 55, wherein the securing portion includes formations on the outer ring configured to receive a portion of the sleeve.

57. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the inner ring is located within a recess of the outer ring.

58. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the outer ring comprises a plurality of interconnected segments which are independently movable to facilitate localized release of the sleeve.

59. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 58, wherein the segments are manually manipulable between a clamped rest position and a release position.

60. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the distal ring is of resilient material.

61. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the distal ring is an O-ring.

62. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein at least a portion of the proximal ring assembly includes a material with a low coefficient of friction.

63. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 62, said material with a low coefficient of friction is polytetrafluoroethylene.

64. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, further including a hand access device coupled to the proximal ring assembly so as to allow the device to be used in laparoscopic surgery.

65. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 64, wherein the hand access device extends across a central opening provided by the retractor.

66. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, further including a capping device coupled to the proximal ring assembly, the capping device extending across a central opening provided by the retractor.

67. (New) A method for retracting an incision, comprising:  
making an incision in a patient;  
providing a wound retractor comprising a central longitudinal axis, a distal ring, a proximal ring assembly having an inner ring and an outer ring, and a sleeve extending at least between the distal ring and the proximal ring assembly, the sleeve being slidably received about a portion of the proximal ring assembly;  
inserting the distal ring through the incision such that the sleeve extends through the incision and the proximal ring assembly is located outside of the incision; and

sliding the sleeve relative to the proximal ring assembly to shorten an axial length of the sleeve located between the distal ring and the proximal ring assembly.

68. (New) A method for retracting an incision of claim 67, wherein the sliding of the sleeve relative to the proximal ring assembly includes sliding the sleeve between the inner ring and the outer ring of the proximal ring assembly.

69. (New) A method for retracting an incision of claim 67, further comprising securing the sleeve at a desired axial length between the distal ring and proximal ring assembly.

70. (New) A method for retracting an incision of claim 69, wherein the securing of the sleeve at a desired axial length includes securing the sleeve to formations formed on the outer ring of the proximal ring assembly.

71. (New) A method for retracting an incision of claim 67, further including attaching a medical device to the proximal ring assembly.

72. (New) A method for retracting an incision of claim 71, wherein attaching of a medical device to the proximal ring assembly includes attaching one of a hand access device, trocar, internal organ retractor, or illumination means.

73. (New) A method for retracting an incision of claim 71, wherein attaching of a medical device to the proximal ring assembly includes attaching a hand access device across a central opening provided by the retractor